

Members' News and Notices

Obituaries

Professor Arthur Ellison

Max Payne writes: At the inception of the Network Arthur Ellison was invited to join by the founders, George Blaker and Patrick Shackleton, and he continued to be active in its council from the beginning right until his departure from this life. Arthur's special quality was that he combined disparate gifts, qualifications and interests into the synthetic unity of one genial and wise personality. Professionally he was a skilled and inventive engineer who was also a successful academic; careers themselves not always successfully united in one person. But not only was he an engineer, Arthur was an idealist in every sense of the term. He was committed to the higher values of human life, but he had a committed metaphysical belief that the nature of reality was grounded in consciousness, and that the realms of consciousness must stretch far beyond the merely human.

For some people sceptical, investigative science and a belief in spiritual realms of existence are totally incompatible. Others recognise both, but keep them locked in separate compartments. Arthur united them, and it usually only required 10 minutes conversation with him to be convinced that scientific method and a belief in the wider dimensions of consciousness had to be held together at the same time, or both would be deficient. For him concern for empirical evidence and experimental precision were not just the techniques of his job. They went deeper, and he carried them over into his investigations into the wider realms of human experience. Through the SPR, and independently, he was involved in the investigation of a wide range of paranormal phenomena and evidence for survival. He amassed considerable evidence to show that human energies and consciousness exist beyond the boundaries of the body, yet at no point did the ruthless scepticism of the scientist desert him. His study on the seeing of auras was magisterial. Whatever those who see auras are doing, it cannot be what they normally claim to be doing.

Simply because Arthur never set out to be a dominating figure in the SMN, much of the "Network magic" which makes us what we are can be put down to his example and quiet influence. Courageous openness to all experience, rigour and sceptical honesty in questioning, and love and mutual respect are not only our official guidelines, they were the personal characteristics of one of our founder members, now departed.

Professor David Fontana writes: Arthur was one of the finest of men and truest of friends. A devoted family man, a careful and perceptive researcher, a bold and creative thinker, a true scholar and a generous and compassionate human being, he set us all an example of how life can best be lived. In all the time I knew him I never heard him say a bad word about anyone or give voice to a mean or ungracious thought. Equally indicative of his quality as a man, I never heard anyone speak a disparaging word of him. He graced this Society with his presence and his labours, and he graced life with his warmth, his sensitivity, his wisdom and his gentleness. We are all the richer from having known him, and he takes our love with him as he continues his journey. We can be confident that only good will befall him.

David's full obituary will appear in the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research

Roy Ridgway

My abiding memories of Roy and his wife Dorothea are from Moscow and St. Petersburg where my wife and I were members of a party visiting scientists and doctors to set up collaborative projects. He was the warmest of men, always laughing and planning new

initiatives - only a few weeks ago we were talking about a joint conference involving some Russians from this International Integrated Health Association (IIHA). Roy's achievements were many and can be found in full in a longer obituary written by Member Simon House, which we have posted on the web site.

Roy saw ambulance service during the war before turning to editing and writing. He moved into medical journalism in the 60s and became director of the Sparsholt Centre, which was the first in the UK to teach humanistic psychologies. He was then on the staff of the BMA, where he edited the BMA News Review. He was involved in the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons, and was one of the staff who received the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War in 1985. His work in the 1990s was principally centred around the IIHA and its programmes in the CIS - he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Odessa State University. He had also just been awarded the Albert Schweitzer Grand Gold Medal of the Albert Schweitzer World Academy of Medicine and was to be made an Honorary Fellow. As Simon House put it at the end of his piece: 'We shall not forget this remarkable inextinguishable spirit'. Indeed we shan't, and his work will go on.

Peter Talbot Willcox

Nicholas Colloff writes: It is with sadness we must report the death of member, Peter Talbot Willcox. Peter combined the practical sense of a successful businessman with the lifelong exploration of metaphysical and religious truth. His mentor was the writer, musician and mountaineer, Marco Pallis, and in his spirit he delved deep into the mystical strand of his own chosen Christian tradition whilst welcoming dialogue with other faiths. This dialogue was given concrete expression in his work with the World Congress of Faiths. Especially close to his heart was the role spiritual traditions could play in orientating towards an appropriate relationship with the natural world, a relationship that in the modern world has become profoundly imbalanced. He founded the Religion & Environment Education Project to equip teachers in schools to better explore these connections of faith and reverence for creation. He was a noble enquirer, a delightful dialogue partner and a faithful friend.

William Arkle

David de Vall writes: On 3rd October 2000 Bill Arkle passed into the light aged 75. Bill's life was devoted to the expression and teaching of a simple but profound idea: God as personal Friend. His book *A Geography of Consciousness* was published in 1973, but it was his prolific work as an artist that was his main joy. Bill's stand at the *Mind Body Spirit* festival in 1977 took a central place, and it was his striking painting of a Father/Mother God that was used to advertise the festival. Bill ploughed the lonely furrow of those whose work is ahead of their time, but he was delighted by the popularity of the *Conversations with God* books - Bill had been saying much the same things for twenty five years in such pieces as *Letter from a Father*. Bill did what he did because he loved it. He departed robustly engaged in life, creating extraordinary images on his Apple computer and questing to the moment it was time to leave.

A few days before he passed over he e.mailed me what he called God's menu: the main course was "Pure Joy and Pure Love in equal parts". For those who knew him, Bill has left us just that in our hearts. Bill joins his wife Liz of 43 years who preceded him only a few months earlier. Some of Bill's work may be viewed at:

<http://www.arkle.org.uk/opening.htm>

Freeman Dyson wins Templeton Prize

Honorary Member Prof. Freeman Dyson, FRS was awarded this year's Templeton Prize for

Progress in Religion. He is written up in a new publication from the Templeton Foundation, reported elsewhere in this issue and is quoted as saying: 'I do not feel like an alien in this universe. The more I examine the universe and study the details of its architecture, the more evidence I find that the universe in some sense must have known that we were coming. For more detail, consult www.templeton.org

Setting Mysticism in a Context - Mike King's web site

Julian Candy writes: Those of us interested in the mystical life will enjoy Mike King's (SMN) web site at www.jnani.org, subtitled 'the deep structure of the spiritual life'. Visually very attractive, with beautiful photographs of butterflies and arresting ones of selected masters, it aims to discuss in some depth the varieties of the mystical path, using as a framework the twin polarities of jnani (gnosis, immediate knowledge) versus bhakti (devotion), and the *via positiva* versus the *via negativa*. While Mike clearly sees himself as aspiring to occupy the jnani via positiva quadrant, he gives a fair and lucid account of the value and significance of other ways up the mountain. He tackles such issues as the guru principle, jnani and the occult, and nature mysticism, and has a particularly good section on jnani and the West. The selected masters comprise Maharshi, Ramakrishna, Douglas Harding, Krishnamurti, Walt Whitman, Osho, Gurdjieff, the Buddha, Rumi, Mother Meera and Andrew Cohen. A biography of each is followed by a summary of their teachings, with many quotations, and a commentary. Numerous other important figures are mentioned elsewhere, with some inevitable repetition amongst much stimulating and well-balanced historical analysis. If and when the material is published as a book (which it deserves to be) some reordering and the provision of an index would further enhance its value.

I enjoyed this site and Mike's home site, to which there is a link, and learned a lot from it. Part of its strength is that some views are provocative and controversial: is the problem of suffering really confronted by the calculation that 90% of the human population of the planet had a nice day yesterday? View the site to find out how that figure is arrived at, and to consider where you stand on the unexpected relationship of Auntie Dillard's frog to the water bug.

Anne Miller - Thinking Creatively about the Future

Anne writes: Creativity, with its use of both rational and intuitive insights, is one of the most important human characteristics. It is the foundation stone of the modern economy and using it will be essential if we are to resolve the myriad global problems threatening us. We are part of a wildly non linear, complex and inherently unpredictable system, reacting to an interlaced network of powerful factors ranging from climate change to the internet. The human mind hates uncertainty and hence it is tempting to try to simplify things until one can make a 'rational' prediction of a future that is either gloomy or glossy. This is doomed to failure. This sort of complex 'open' problem is exactly the type that cannot easily be solved in a purely linear, rational way, because there is a near infinite branching network of influencing factors and possible solutions. We therefore need to develop and use our creativity to create the future we want to live in, not attempt to predict the unpredictable.

Anne Miller is Director of the Creativity Partnership, a consultancy devoted to helping organisations and their leaders think creatively about the Future. Interested members are invited to contact her on anne.miller@techpart.co.uk

Dolly Knight and Jonathon Stromberg - Implosion Research

Readers familiar with Viktor Schauberger's pioneering work on water will be interested in this site www.implosionresearch.com - they have invented a personal harmoniser that has

now sold 10,000 units with only 2 returns. An article in the Daily Telegraph from 23 August found their Harmoniser to be the most affordable radiation protection product on the market. The article mentioned Member Roger Coghill's lymphocyte tests and his seal approval on our products. Further tests on their products were carried out this year by Dr. Schweitzer, Dr. Schmeikal, Dr. Smith and Roger Coghill. These all showed positive results and full reports are now available on their website. Testimonials are also available there. A related web site is William Baumgartner's one with details of research into implosion machinery -www.vortexscience.com

Professor James Stevens Curl - Irish Society Book

A major new study of the role of the City of London in Irish history. A part of the Ulster lands were given over to the City of London, who established a special body to oversee the development of Londonderry and the establishment of two new towns and 16 villages. The Honourable Irish Society continues to this day and Professor Curl has drawn on huge archives to produce this landmark volume. *The Honourable Irish Society and the Plantation of Ulster, 1608-2000, Phillimore, 448 pp., £50 h/b.*